

a first communication port attached to the case and configured to be directly coupled to a modem in a computer thereby forming a primary communication link;

a second communication port coupled to the signal reporting circuit and configured to be coupled with the computer thereby forming a secondary communication link;

and

a signal reporting circuit located within the case and coupled to the first communication port and the second communication port, the signal reporting circuit including a microprocessor configured to send a signal to the computer via the secondary communication link to initiate the transmission of test data from the modem in the computer via the primary communication link and to evaluate the transmit capability of the modem in the computer over the primary communication link.

5. (Amended) A method of testing the operation of a modem in a computer using a portable modem testing device, the method comprising:

coupling the modem in the computer to the portable modem testing device;

coupling the computer to the portable modem testing device via an alternate communication link;

sending a signal from the portable modem testing device to the computer via the alternate communication link to initiate testing the operation of the modem in the computer;

initiating transmission of test data from the modem;

receiving the transmission from the modem at the portable modem testing device; and

verifying the transmission.

8. (Amended) A method of testing the operation of a modem in a computer using a modem testing device, the method comprising:

coupling the modem in the computer to the modem testing device;

coupling the computer to the modem testing device via an alternate communication link;

sending a signal to the computer via the alternate communication link to initialize the modem in the computer;

transmitting of test data from the modem testing device;

receiving the transmission from the modem testing device at the modem in the computer;

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verifying the transmission;  
transmitting test data from the modem to the modem testing device;  
verifying the test data.

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